

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

1 A system and method for automatically answering a call from a calling party to a  
2 called party that originates via the Internet, includes and involves a data storage  
3 system and processor that is coupled to the data storage system. The processor  
4 is operative to initiate an automated call answering service in response to an  
5 Internet telephony call from the calling party which is intended to be received by  
6 the called party, to receive a message from the calling party via the Internet in  
7 accordance with the automated call answering service, and to store the message  
8 in the data storage system for processing by the processor in accordance with  
9 the automated call answering service.